



NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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MAYORS TAKE JOBS MESSAGE ON THE ROAD!

“Battleground Mayors Fighting for Jobs” Bus Tour Through Ohio Underscores Job Losses, Need for Federal Support

Ohio Job Growth Lags Nation; State Sees Increase in Lower Paying Jobs

Columbus, OH – The United States Conference of Mayors, a bi-partisan organization of Republican, Democratic and Independent mayors, led by President and Akron (OH) Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic, along with mayors from the “big six” cities in the state of Ohio, will today embark on a 2-day bus tour through five major cities in the battleground state to release an *Ohio Metro Economy and Jobs Report* that analyzes job losses and forecasts future job growth. The mayors’ bus tour is especially timely in light of the recent release of anemic job growth numbers for July.

Today, Thursday, August 12, and Friday, August 13, the mayors will travel through Columbus, Dayton, Cincinnati, Toledo and Cleveland to highlight job loss, wage gap figures, and employment projections for the State and their metro economies. The Ohio Jobs Bus Tour follows the Conference’s release of the Mayors’ ‘04 Metro Agenda for America’s Cities in Chicago, on Wednesday, August 11. This Metro Agenda focuses on issues that impact the strength of America’s cities, including job creation, infrastructure and transportation investment, public safety, and brownfields redevelopment.

“The mayors of this nation are working with President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry as we continue to advocate for our cities by calling both candidates to include all or part of the *Mayor’s ‘04 Metro Agenda for Cities* in their domestic policy,” said Conference President and Akron Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic.

Mayor Plusquellic continued, “We have come here to my home state, the battleground state of Ohio, to release the fourth in a series of statewide metro economy and jobs report. Contrary to popular belief, it is not the economy of the 50 states that drives the national economy. It is the 318 metro economies - made up of cities and suburbs - that are the strength of this nation.

The study, conducted by Global Insight, highlights the importance of Ohio’s metros to the overall state’s economy. The report reveals that Ohio’s 15 metro areas are the engines of the state’s economy, generating nearly 85% of gross state product; over 84% of jobs; and over 86% of wages. Furthermore, the study shows that Ohio’s top six metros (Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, Akron, and Toledo) represent over 70% of the state’s economy based on their gross metro products (GMP) with the top three metros (Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati) accounting for over half of Ohio’s gross state product.

“The state of Ohio has lost good paying jobs at an alarming rate. Our people are suffering and our cities are feeling their loss. The social and economic prosperity of our nation depends on strengthening our metro economies and strengthening our cities,” Plusquellic added.

Ohio ranked 50th among the states and the District of Columbia in GMP growth, and job growth over the last 4 years. The State is projected to significantly trail the nation’s rate of economic growth and job growth through 2008.

The report also indicates that during 2000-2003, Durable Manufacturing was the leading job losing sector in the Ohio economy (141,909 jobs lost); followed by Retail Trade (45,936 jobs lost); and Non-durables manufacturing (38,591 jobs lost). Also during the same period, Ohio lost \$13.9 billion in wages as a result of job cutbacks. The average annual wage of lost jobs during 2000-2003 was \$41,836.

The expected job gains in the state will not necessarily return in the same sectors where they were lost. The top three sectors for job growth for 2003-2006 will be Health Care & Social Assistance (33,131 jobs gained); followed by Professional, Scientific & Tech (27,452 jobs gained); and Administration & Support Services (24,395 jobs gained). The report also projects that 14.5% fewer workers with new jobs will receive health benefits compared to those who were covered by lost jobs.

The average wage of new jobs being created from 2003-2006 is \$35,297. This results in a 15.6% wage gap in Ohio between jobs lost and jobs gained and an annual loss of \$948 million in wages for Ohio workers between 2003 and 2006. This wage gap is 30% higher than the national average wage gap of 12% projected for the same period.

Ohio metros have borne the brunt of unemployment and slow employment growth. Over the next four years, employment in Ohio’s metros will increase by only 3.6% compared to 6.3% in all of U.S. metros and 5.9% for the U.S. economy. That means that employment growth for the state of Ohio and its metros will lag behind the growth rate of other metros and the nation.

The reality is that Ohio metros will not see pre-recession employment levels until well into the future: Cleveland – beyond 2009 Q4; Columbus – 2006 Q3; Cincinnati – 2006 Q2; Dayton – beyond 2009 Q4; Akron – 2006 Q2; and Toledo – beyond 2009 Q4.

“By investing in cities and metro areas, we can create good jobs, promote small business development, and create hope and opportunity for millions of Americans,” Mayor Plusquellic concluded.

View the entire report online at www.usmayors.org.

OHIO '04 JOBS TOUR SCHEDULE:

Thursday, August 12, 2004:

Columbus Press Conference – 10:00 am

West Edge Business Center
855 West Mound Street (corner of Mound and Harmon)
Columbus, OH

Dayton Press Conference – 2:30 pm

Select Tool
240 Detrick Street
Dayton, OH

Friday, August 13, 2004:

Toledo Press Conference – 8:45 am

Pilkington North American Automotive Glass Facility
1968 Miami Street
Toledo, OH

Cleveland Press Conference – 1:30 pm

City Hall – Red Room
601 Lakeside Avenue
Cleveland, OH

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.

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